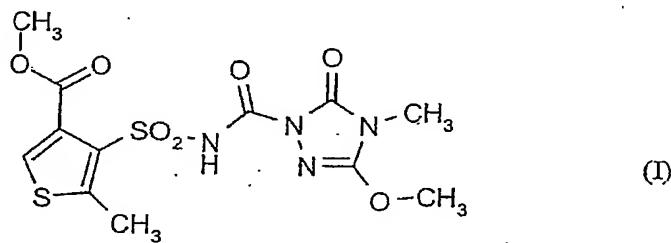


***Amendments to the Claims***

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of selectively controlling weeds of the genus Apera in crops of useful plants by which comprises applying ~~to said crops of useful plants~~ the compound 5-methoxy-4-methyl-2-[(4-methoxycarbonyl-2-methylthien-3-yl)sulfonylaminocarbonyl]-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one of the formula (I)



, salts of the compound of formula (I), or mixtures thereof in an amount of 2-60 g a.i./ha to said crops of useful plants.

2. (currently amended) A method of selectively controlling weeds of the genus Apera in crops of useful plants, which comprises applying to said crops of useful plants 2-60 g a.i./ha of the compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, salts of the compound of formula (I), or mixtures thereof together with surface-active agents, extenders or mixtures thereof.

3. (new) A method of claim 1 wherein the amount of the compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 applied to said crops of useful plants is 2-15 g a.i./ha.

4. (new) A method of claim 1 wherein the amount of the compound of formula  
(I) as claimed in claim 1 applied to said crops of useful plants is 7.5-15 g a.i./ha.

5. (new) A method of claim 1 wherein the amount of the compound of formula  
(I) as claimed in claim 1 applied to said crops of useful plants is 7.5 g a.i./ha.

6. (new) A method of claim 2 wherein the amount of the compound of formula  
(I) as claimed in claim 1 applied to said crops of useful plants is 2-15 g a.i./ha.

7. (new) A method of claim 2 wherein the amount of the compound of formula  
(I) as claimed in claim 1 applied to said crops of useful plants is 7.5-15 g a.i./ha.

8. (new) A method of claim 2 wherein the amount of the compound of formula  
(I) as claimed in claim 1 applied to said crops of useful plants is 7.5 g a.i./ha.